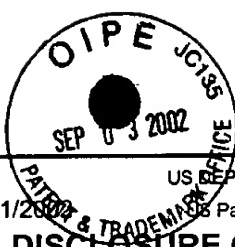


|   |    |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
|---|----|-----------------|----------|----------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------------|----|
| U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office  |    |                 |          |                | Atty Docket No. US   |          | Serial No.                 |    |
|   |    |                 |          |                | M-8615 US            |          | N/A                        |    |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT   |    |                 |          |                | Applicants           |          |                            |    |
| (Use several sheets if necessary)   |    |                 |          |                | Daniel Castro et al. |          |                            |    |
|   |    |                 |          |                | Filing Date          |          | Group                      |    |
|   |    |                 |          |                | May 31, 2000         |          | N/A                        |    |
| U.S. Patent Documents   |    |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
| *Examiner Initial   |    | Document Number | Date     | Name           | Class                | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate |    |
| TB  | AA | 4,967,606       | 11/6/90  | Wells et al.   | 73                   | 864.18   |                            |    |
|   | AB | 5,225,750       | 07/06/93 | Higuchi et al. | 318                  | 280      |                            |    |
|   | AC | 5,824,056       | 10/20/98 | Rosenberg      | 623                  | 1        |                            |    |
|   | AD | 5,837,313       | 11/17/98 | Ding et al.    | 427                  | 2.21     |                            |    |
|   | AE | 5,843,172       | 12/01/98 | Yan            | 623                  | 1        |                            |    |
| TB  | AF | 5,869,127       | 02/09/99 | Zhong          | 427                  | 2.12     |                            |    |
|   | AG |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
|   | AH |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
|   | AI |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
|   | AJ |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
|   | AK |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
| Foreign Patent Documents  |    |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
|   |    |                 |          |                |                      |          | Translation                |    |
|   |    | Document        | Date     | Country        | Class                | Subclass | Yes                        | No |
|   | AL |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
|   | AM |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
|   | AN |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
|   | AO |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
|   | AP |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
| OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)  |    |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
|   | AQ |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
|   | AR |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
|   | AS |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
| Examiner  |    | Date Considered |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
| TB  |    | 1/14/03         |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |
| *EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant. |    |                 |          |                |                      |          |                            |    |

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| U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office   |    |                                |          |                | Atty Docket No. |          | Serial No.                 |    |
|  |    |                                |          |                | M-8615 US       |          | 09/583,327                 |    |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  |    |                                |          |                | Applicants      |          |                            |    |
| (Use several sheets if necessary)  |    |                                |          |                | Castro, et al.  |          |                            |    |
|  |    |                                |          |                | Filing Date     |          | Group                      |    |
|  |    |                                |          |                | 5/31/2000       |          | Unknown                    |    |
| U.S. Patent Documents  |    |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
| *Examiner Initial  |    | Document Number                | Date     | Name           | Class           | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate |    |
| TPB  | AA | 4,733,665                      | 3/29/88  | Palmaz         | 128             | 343      |                            |    |
|  | AB | 4,800,882                      | 1/31/89  | Gianturco      | 128             | 343      |                            |    |
|  | AC | 4,886,062                      | 12/12/89 | Wiktor         | 128             | 343      |                            |    |
|  | AD | 5,464,650                      | 11/7/95  | Berg et al.    | 427             | 2.30     |                            |    |
| ↓  | AE | 5,769,883                      | 6/23/98  | Buscemi et al. | 623             | 1        |                            |    |
| TPB  | AF | 5,873,904                      | 2/23/99  | Ragheb et al.  | 623             | 1        |                            |    |
|  | AG |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AH |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AJ |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AJ |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AK |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
| Foreign Patent Documents   |    |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
|  |    |                                |          |                |                 |          | Translation                |    |
|  |    | Document                       | Date     | Country        | Class           | Subclass | Yes                        | No |
|  | AE |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AM |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AN |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AO |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AP |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
| OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)   |    |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AQ |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AR |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AS |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
| Examiner <i>Tha...</i>   |    | Date Considered <i>1/14/03</i> |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |
| <p>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant.</p> |    |                                |          |                |                 |          |                            |    |

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|--|---------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------|----------------------------|----|
| U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office   |         |                 |                 |                  | Atty Docket No. |          | Serial No.                 |    |
|  |         |                 |                 |                  | M-8615 US       |          | 09/583,327                 |    |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  |         |                 |                 |                  | Applicant(s)    |          |                            |    |
| (Use several sheets if necessary)  |         |                 |                 |                  | Castro, et al.  |          |                            |    |
|  |         |                 |                 |                  | Filing Date     |          | Group                      |    |
|  |         |                 |                 |                  | 05/31/2000      |          | Unknown                    |    |
| U.S. Patent Documents  |         |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
| *Examiner Initial  |         | Document Number | Date            | Name             | Class           | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate |    |
| TB   | AA      | 5,527,337       | 6/18/96         | Stack et al.     | 606             | 198      |                            |    |
|  | AB      | 5,700,286       | 12/23/97        | Tartaglia et al. | 623             | 1        |                            |    |
|  | AC      | 5,713,949       | 2/3/98          | Jayaraman        | 623             | 1        |                            |    |
|  | AD      | 5,766,710       | 6/16/98         | Turnlund et al.  | 428             | 36.1     |                            |    |
|  | AE      |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AF      |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AG      |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AH      |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AI      |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AJ      |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AK      |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
| Foreign Patent Documents   |         |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
|  |         |                 |                 |                  |                 |          | Translation                |    |
|  |         | Document        | Date            | Country          | Class           | Subclass | Yes                        | No |
| TB   | AL      | WO 98/23228     | 6/4/98          | PCT              | A61F            | 2/06     |                            |    |
|  | AM      |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AN      |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AO      |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AP      |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
| OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)   |         |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AQ      |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AR      |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
|  | AS      |                 |                 |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
| Examiner   | 1/14/03 |                 | Date Considered |                  |                 |          |                            |    |
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| <b>FORM PTO-1449 (Modified)</b><br>Approved for use through 10/31/2002<br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b><br>in an Application<br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>Patent and Trademark Office | Docket No.<br><b>50623.126</b> | Application No.<br><b>09/583,327</b> |
|  | Applicant<br><b>Daniel Castro et al.</b>                 |                                |                                      |
|  | Filing Date<br><b>May 31, 2000</b>                       | Group Art Unit<br><b>3738</b>  |                                      |

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initial | Ref. No. | Document Number | Date of Patent | Name           | Class | Subclass | Filing Date if Appropriate |
|------------------|----------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| <i>IB</i>        | A1       | 5,368,560       | 11/29/94       | Rambo et al.   | 604   | 35       |                            |
|                  | A2       | 6,056,993       | 5/2/00         | Leidner et al. | 427   | 2.25     |                            |
|                  | A3       | 6,096,070       | 8/1/00         | Ragheb et al.  | 623   | 1        |                            |
|                  | A4       | 6,121,027       | 9/19/00        | Clapper et al. | 435   | 180      |                            |
| <i>IB</i>        | A5       | 6,209,621       | 4/3/01         | Treacy         | 164   | 516      |                            |
|                  | A6       | 6,214,407       | 4/10/01        | Laube et al.   | 427   | 2.24     |                            |
|                  | A7       |                 |                |                |       |          |                            |
|                  | A8       |                 |                |                |       |          |                            |
|                  | A9       |                 |                |                |       |          |                            |
|                  | A10      |                 |                |                |       |          |                            |

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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initial | Ref. No. | Document Number | Date of Publication | Country | Class | Subclass | Translation |    |
|------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|                  |          |                 |                     |         |       |          | Yes         | No |
|                  | B1       |                 |                     |         |       |          |             |    |
|                  | B2       |                 |                     |         |       |          |             |    |
|                  | B3       |                 |                     |         |       |          |             |    |
|                  | B4       |                 |                     |         |       |          |             |    |
|                  | B5       |                 |                     |         |       |          |             |    |
|                  | B6       |                 |                     |         |       |          |             |    |

**OTHER DOCUMENTS** (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

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| EXAMINER<br><i>Thom B...</i> | DATE CONSIDERED<br><b>1/14/03</b> |
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| <b>FORM PTO-1449 (Modified)</b><br>Approved for use through 10/31/2002                                  |  | US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>US Patent and Trademark Office |  | Docket No.<br><b>50623.126</b>           |  | Application No.<br><b>09/583,327</b> |  |
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b><br><b>in an Application</b><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |  |   |  | Applicant<br><b>Daniel Castro et al.</b> |  | Filing Date<br><b>May 31, 2000</b>   |  |
| Group Art Unit<br><b>3738</b>   |  |   |  |  |  |                                      |  |

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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |          |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|----------------|--------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| Examiner Initial      | Ref. No. | Document Number | Date of Patent | Name   | Class | Subclass | Filing Date if Appropriate |
| RB                    | A1       | 5,015,505       | 5/14/91        | Cetnar | 427   | 286      |                            |
| TB                    | A2       | 5,980,972       | 11/9/99        | Ding   | 427   | 2.24     |                            |
|                       | A3       |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A4       |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A5       |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A6       |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A7       |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A8       |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A9       |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A10      |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A11      |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A12      |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A13      |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A14      |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A15      |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A16      |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A17      |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |
|                       | A18      |                 |                |        |       |          |                            |

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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |          |                 |                     |         |       |          |             |    |
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| Examiner Initial         | Ref. No. | Document Number | Date of Publication | Country | Class | Subclass | Translation |    |
|                          |          |                 |                     |         |       |          | Yes         | No |
| RB                       | B1       | 98/23228        | 6/4/98              | PCT     |       |          |             |    |
|                          | B2       |                 |                     |         |       |          |             |    |

| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.) |  |
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